

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA, ORR

MONTH OF DECEMBER 1958

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

A. Accomplishments and Coordination Activities

1. Production in the Geographic Research Area declined seasonally during December. Maps and reports completed were principally in support of OSI, clandestine operations, and staff planning on Antarctica. Significant work in progress includes a provisional atlas of Chinese Communist administrative units, regional analyses of Northeast Thailand and the Soviet Arctic, E&E-type studies on the Middle East, and various NIS sections. New projects on Finland, Rumanian agriculture, the "northern territories" of Poland, and various codeword subjects are expected to develop during January.

2. The Cartography Division completed 89 maps and charts -- 82 for the Agency and 7 for the Department of State. A total of 124 requests were accepted -- all for CIA components.

3. The Geography Division completed two Geographic Intelligence Reports (GR 201, Code: [REDACTED]; and GR-202, Code: [REDACTED]; one Map and Chart Appraisal component of the NIS Chapter I Annual on Sweden; one Section 19 of NIS Chapter I on North Korea; and four memoranda in the G/E and G/I categories.

4. The Map Library Division received 4,664 foreign-published maps during the month, of which 33% were retained in CIA; 32% sent to AMS; and 24% to the Library of Congress. The Division sent out 15,049 maps in response to 901 requests; in addition, 400 geographic and cartographic items were distributed in response to 120 requests.

5. Several meetings were held between personnel of State, Defense, and the Map Library Division regarding the possible implementation of an aerial photography project for [REDACTED] which was requested by the Government [REDACTED]. As a result of the meetings, a project proposal has been drafted and transmitted by State to the Embassy in Amman for presentation to the [REDACTED].

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6. Mr. [REDACTED], D/GG, participated in a discussion of the scientific requirements to be prepared for the formulation of an Antarctic mapping program. The discussion showed again the serious problems of developing a coordinated program, and a restatement of requirements is being prepared by a panel of the Committee on Polar Research for the NSF and OCB. Also during the month, the OCB revised its Report on Antarctica to reflect more adequately the concern that is felt over the implications of Soviet activities related to the area. Mr. [REDACTED] delivered a paper on Soviet polar activities before ATIC personnel in Dayton.

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7. Some six months after initiation, the special USSR town plans project is at the stage of assembly-line production. Three maps have been completed, with five in various stages of compilation and drafting. Back-up research is being conducted by the Geography Division on three additional towns.

8. D/GL's foreign map procurement program realized a take of 67,585 maps during 1958, a substantial increase over 1957. Requests for map reference service ran 5% above those in 1957.

9. The Chapter IX Subcommittee was unsuccessful in obtaining NIS Committee action on its proposals for adjusting production schedules to reflect greater work loads caused by the Annuals. The matter will be reviewed again in the Subcommittee.

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10. [REDACTED] kindly loaned its brown-line master for use as a base in the production of a city plan of Gdansk.

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11. [REDACTED], D/GG, spent the period 14-19 December in [REDACTED] coordinating a revision of G-15, The Soviet Arctic, with [REDACTED] analysts.

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12. [REDACTED], D/GG, gave a lecture on astronomy, astrophysics, geodesy, and gravimetry as part of OIR's new Technical and Scientific Operations Course.

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